

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 ABF-01 AGR-10 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 FSE-00 HEW-06

HUD-02 INR-07 INT-05 LOC-01 NASA-02 NSAE-00 NSF-02

OMB-01 USIA-15 SMI-01 TRSE-00 /086 R

DRAFTED BY OES/APT/SEP:WAROOT:DBU

APPROVED BY OES/APT/SEP:WAROOT

OES/APT:OHGANLEY (DRAFT)

EUR/EE:CBROWN (DRAFT)

L/OES:SBURTON

A/BF/FC:RWHITENER

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R 070021Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

UNCLAS STATE 083128

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OSCI, TGEN, PL, US

SUBJECT: SFCP:US-POLISH JOINT BOARD MEETING

HIGHLIGHTS AT THE MARCH 31 TO APRIL 2 JOINT BOARD MEETING
IN WASHINGTON WERE AS FOLLOWS:

1. THE ATMOSPHERE DURING THE MEETING WAS VERY CORDIAL.
NOT ONCE DID THE POLISH DELEGATION CRITICIZE THE U.S. FOR
MOVING UP THE CUTOFF DATE FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE ZLOTY
AS AN EXCESS CURRENCY FROM SEPTEMBER 30, 1978, TO DECEMBER
31, 1976. ALTHOUGH THE POLES MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY HAD
NO NEGOTIATING AUTHORITY CONCERNING THE APPLICABILITY OF
THE STOESSEL-KRZAK AGREEMENT TO VARIOUS TRAVEL COSTS, THEY
NEVERTHELESS EXHIBITED AN UNDERSTANDING FOR OUR POSITION.

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2. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED THAT PER DIEM AND TRANSLATIONS WOULD BE FINANCED THROUGH THE JOINT FUND UNDER ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS TO BE AGREED BY THE POLISH MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE U.S. EMBASSY IN WARSAW. THE AMOUNTS WHICH THE U.S. SHOWED IN THE DECISION DOCUMENT AS ESTIMATED ALLOCATIONS BY BROAD AREAS OF RESEARCH INCLUDED RETROACTIVE AS WELL AS FUTURE ESTIMATES FOR ALL SUPPORT ITEMS EXCEPT INTERNATIONAL AIR FARES (I.E. PER DIEM, TRANSLATIONS, AND USDA CONTRACT WITH MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND USDA

PERSONAL SERVICES). WE GATHERED FROM INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS THAT THE POLES WOULD HAVE NO DIFFICULTY IN ARRANGING FOR MATCHING POLISH CONTRIBUTIONS FOR ALL U.S. SUPPORT ITEMS. HOWEVER, INTERNATIONAL AIR FARES WERE NOT INCLUDED IN THE DECISION ON THIS POINT BECAUSE THE POLES WERE NOT AUTHORIZED TO NEGOTIATE ANYTHING ON INTERNATIONAL AIR FARES.

3. THE U.S. STATED ITS INTENT TO DEPOSIT IN THE JOINT FUND BY DECEMBER 31, 1976, OR SHORTLY THEREAFTER, ABOUT 581 MILLION ZLOTYS, INCLUDING AMOUNTS ALREADY DEPOSITED AND INCLUDING SUPPORT ITEMS EXCEPT INTERNATIONAL AIR FARES, EXPLAINING THE NEED TO EXPEDITE THE OBLIGATION PROCEDURE BECAUSE OF THE TREASURY DETERMINATION THAT THE DESIGNATION OF THE ZLOTY AS AN EXCESS CURRENCY WILL BE TERMINATED DECEMBER 31, 1976. THE POLISH SIDE EXPRESSED ITS READINESS TO COOPERATE IN ACCELERATING THE OBLIGATION PROCESS AND ALSO INDICATED ITS WILLINGNESS TO MATCH THE U.S. CONTRIBUTION IN EXCESS OF THE 558 MILLION ZLOTY FIGURE IN THE FUNDING AGREEMENT BY AGREEING TO ALLOCATIONS BY BROAD AREA OF RESEARCH OF 581 MILLION ZLOTYS FROM POLISH CONTRIBUTIONS.

4. THE BOARD RECOGNIZED THE NEED FOR EARLY RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUE OF INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND TRAVEL-RELATED COSTS AFTER SEPT EMBER 30, 1978, AND FOR A MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH SIDES IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO SEEK AGREEMENT ON THE MATTER.

5. IN A MEETING OF HEADS OF DELEGATIONS, THE U.S. MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

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A) SEPTEMBER 30, 1978, WAS THE DATE WHEN US EXCESS ZLOTYS WERE EXPECTED TO BECOME UNAVAILABLE FOR OBLIGATION AND WHEN FUNDING OF COOPERATIVE PROJECTS WAS TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY POLAND.

B) TRAVEL COULD TAKE PLACE UNTIL AND EVEN AFTER SEPTEMBER 30, 1978, PURSUANT TO U.S. OBLIGATIONS ENTERED INTO BEFORE

DECEMBER 31, 1976; AND

C) THE PROVISION IN ARTICLE VI OF THE FUNDING AGREEMENT THAT THE STOESSEL-KRZAK AGREEMENT APPLIES TO TRAVEL BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 1978, IS QUALIFIED BY THE LIMITATION OF COVERAGE IN THE STOESSEL-KRZAK AGREEMENT TO TRAVEL BY PERSONS ON USG OFFICIAL BUSINESS OR IN CONNECTION WITH USG FINANCED ACTIVITIES.

THE U.S. PRESENTED TO THE POLES A WRITTEN STATEMENT ON THESE POINTS (COPY POUCHED TO EMBASSY).

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6. THE POLES REPLIED THAT:

A) THEY BELIEVE THAT ARTICLE VI MEANS THAT STOESSEL-KRZAK APPLIES TO ALL TRAVEL UNTIL SEPTEMBER 30, 1978; AND

B) THE JOINT BOARD DOES NOT HAVE COMPETENCE TO AGREE ON A SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT FOR TRAVEL AFTER SEPTEMBER 30, 1978.

7. WE NOTE THAT, PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 2 OF ARTICLE VI, "BOTH GOVERNMENTS", RATHER THAN THE BOARD, WILL TRY TO WORK OUT AN ARRANGEMENT ON TRAVEL BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 30, 1978, AND DECEMBER 31, 1981.

8. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS, THE U.S. EMPHASIZED THAT NO POLISH FUNDED PROJECTS COULD BE AGREED TO UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. THIS NO DOUBT ACCOUNTS FOR THE POLISH ACCEPTANCE OF A SENSE OF URGENCY IN RESOLVING THE MATTER, EVEN THOUGH THEIR LEGAL POSITION WOULD SUGGEST THAT WE HAD TWO MORE YEARS IN WHICH TO FIND A SOLUTION.

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9. AS EXPECTED, THE POLES GAVE A CLEAR IMPRESSION OF SEEKING A MEANS TO AVOID HARD CURRENCY EXPENDITURES FOR THE PROGRAM. IN ADDITION TO THE TRAVEL ISSUE, THEY EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT ERDA HAD STATED ITS INABILITY TO PROCURE WITH DOLLARS ANY EQUIPMENT IN SUPPORT OF ENERGY PROJECTS.

10. BY SEPTEL YOU WILL HAVE LEARNED OF ARMITAGE-PAWLISZEWSKI MEETING IN WHICH ARMITAGE STRESSED THAT, AFTER EXCESS ZLOTYS BECAME UNAVAILABLE, FUTURE (DOLLAR) APPROPRIATIONS FOR RESEARCH WILL BE DIFFICULT. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE083128
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WAROOT:DBU
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760130-0952
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760487/aaaacweg.tel
Line Count: 165
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUN 2004 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <19 JAN 2005 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SFCP:US-POLISH JOINT BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS AT THE MARCH 31 TO APRIL 2 JOINT BOARD MEETING
TAGS: OSCI, TGEN, PL, US
To: WARSAW
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006